

The Norman Conquest

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"Wolf of the Abruzzi" was sixty-four
years old;
he was succeeded, after the short
reign of his son,
by Pandulf V,

All these years the Greek dominion in
Apulia-
Calabria, and the Lombard sovereignty
in Capua,
Benevento, and Salerno were being
steadily sapped
away, The Lombard dynasts, the
native insurgents of Apulia, at length realised
what their
bringing in of the Normans was likely to
cost them.
Once again in history the deliverers
proved more
intolerable than the old masters,
Town after
town from the Crati to Monte Gargano
was fall-
ing before the siege-craft of the
Normans, which
consisted in the simple and effective
method of
blockading the environs, and starving
the people
into submission. Thereupon, the
place was
secured by rampart and trench; a
valley once
occupied, a Norman castle rose on
some impreg-
nable spur of the Apennines; the
countless moun-
tain-glens of Lower Italy were being
steadily
occupied by Norman lords and their
fighting

The newcomers showed little mercy
or respect
for either churches or towns, clerics or
laymen. In
time then a universal hatred of the

Normans,
mixed with fear and dismay, possessed
the whole
of Southern Italy, One contemporary
remarks
that the liberators had become
oppressors; they
were hated aa much as the Moslems;
they spoiled
God'i Church, they put Christians to
cruel deaths
and spared neither women, nor the
old, nor